

## **Lieutenant Colonel James A. Zanella**

### **Incoming Battalion Commander**

Lieutenant Colonel James A. Zanella commissioned Infantry in 1999 from the United States Military Academy. His first assignment was with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 36<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry Regiment, Friedberg, Germany, where he served as the Mechanized Platoon Leader and Heavy Mortar Platoon Leader. LTC Zanella deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in May 2003 as the Heavy Mortar Platoon Leader. He next served as a Senior Platoon Trainer and Battalion Operations Officer with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. He assumed command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division in September 2006. He led the company from 08 October 2006 until 31 December 2007 as part of the Iraq Surge. After 22 months of company command, LTC Zanella served as a Maneuver Observer Trainer and then as Chief of Exercise Control for Operations Group Charlie, United States Army Mission Command Training Program, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Following attendance at resident Command and General Staff College and the School of Advanced Military Studies, LTC Zanella deployed in June 2012 to Kabul, Afghanistan as a Joint Operations Planner for United States Forces – Afghanistan. Upon redeployment, LTC Zanella served as the Battalion Operations Officer with the 4<sup>th</sup> Ranger Training Battalion from June 2013 until June 2014. He served as the Brigade Operations Officer until June 2015 and the Brigade Deputy Commander until March 2016 for the 199<sup>th</sup> IN BDE (Leader Development) at Fort Benning, GA. He moved to the Infantry School and served as the Executive Officer to the Infantry Commandant, until December 2016. Currently, LTC Zanella is the G3, Maneuver Center of Excellence.

Lieutenant Colonel Zanella's military education includes the School of Advanced Military Studies; Command and General Staff College; Joint Operations Planner Course; Joint Firepower Course; the Infantry Officers' Advanced and Basic Course; Infantry Mortar Leader's Course; Bradley Fighting Vehicle Commander's Course; Ranger School; Air Assault School; Airborne School.

Lieutenant Colonel Zanella's academic credentials include a Bachelor of Science in Military History from the United States Military Academy in 1999; a Masters of Science in International Relations from Troy University in 2006; and a Masters of Military Art and Science in Theater Operations from the School of Advanced Military Studies in 2012.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (1x OLC), Army Commendation Medal (3x OLC), Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award (1x OLC), Ranger Tab, Parachutist's Badge, Air Assault Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency in Gold.